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A MOST SERIOUS EXPOSTULATION

With ſeveral of my

Fellow-Citizens

In reference to their ſtanding ſo high for the *D. Y's.* Intereſt at this Juncture of time.

Gentlemen,

I Hope no diſcreet and honeſt Perſon will look upon it as any Preſumption, but as neceſſary Counſel, humbly to caution you (my Brethren) with my ſelf in time, well to conſider, whither you are running: What it is that you are doing? Above all, it behoves you to conſider it at this time, why ſhould we delight in our own Deſtruction and help forward our own Ruine? Perhaps you may think that's ſtrange and impoſſible, that any ſhould be ſo weak, but yet 'tis no new thing, for ſome to be blinded, deluded, and beguiled, 'tis but what is and hath been too common in all Ages: though certainly for any Nation or Number of men to endeavour or effect their own Deſtruction, is one of the ſevereſt Judgments of God that can befall a People, I pray God, none of you may come under this Curſe, of having Eyes and Ears, and ſee and hear not, Hearts, and will not underſtand.

2. But 'tis to be feared, that too many among you are running headlong the Path-way of Deſtruction, by endeavouring to foment Diviſion amongſt thoſe that are Proteſtants, and not only to keep open, but to widen the Breach betwixt the Church of *England* and other Proteſtants of different Perſwaſions; whereas neither of you can ever be ſafe if you do not both unite and joyn hand in hand againſt the Common Enemy, *viz.* the Papiſts and Popery, as the Caſe now ſtands with us.

This indeed may be unminded by many of you by Reaſon there are ſo many Blinds daily endeavoured to be put upon us under the Notion of the Church of *England*, whereas the Name of the Church of *England* is only made uſe of (by the Jeſuite Party) as the Papiſts Stalking-horſe, and not by the true Sons of the Church of *England*, but to blind them; as *Coleman's* Declaration runs all in the name of the Church of *England*, though deſigned and penned by him and other Papiſts, the greateſt Enemies, in Truth, to the Church of *England*. And no Doubt but moſt of the Pamphlets that now come out under that Notion, are of the ſame Stamp, forged by the Jeſuits, thoſe Fire-brands of all *Europe*; you may eaſily gueſs at them *by their Extenuating the Plot, and adviſing us not to have any Fears, but to leſſen our Guards in the City, by their endeavouring to create and encreaſe the Diviſions betwixt thoſe of the Church of* England *and other Proteſtants*, which I am ſure no ſincere hearted Son of the Church would do at this time, but would diſown and diſclaim all ſuch Proceedings as ſpurious; you may eaſily know of what Kidney they are *by their pleading for a Popiſh Succeſſor*, &c.

Now Sirs, permit me to expoſtulate the Caſe, and tell you, whoever you are that are for the D's Intereſt, in the Circumſtances as he now ſtands with *England*, are you not moſt certainly (if you do but rightly underſtand your ſelves) for theſe three Intereſts, *viz.* Firſt for

the Pope and Papists Interest—Secondly, for the *French* Interest—Thirdly for Arbitrary Government.

I pray you consider, you that are for the D. in the Circumstances he hath at present brought himself and the Nation under (by his Adhering to, and so much countenancing the Papists and French Interest) are you not in plain English, against these three things, though it may be ignorantly, yet in the sequell it may prove so, *viz.* 1. Against the Interest of the Church of *England* and the Protestant Religion. 2. Against the Interest of *England* your Native Country. 3. Against the Interest of all Parliaments, and so against your own Freedomes and Liberties as you are Englishmen.

Solomon says, *A wise mans Eyes are in his Head*, and are not a Fool's too? Yes, but he makes no Use of them to foresee the Evil and avoid it; and that we may not come under that Denomination, let us most seriously ponder and consider these Particulars, for 'tis no less than your Religion, your Lives, your Liberties, your Estates, and your All that is concerned in the Consequence of it.

Now to demonstrate not only the Probability of its being so, but the Certainty of it, and the Impossibility of its being otherwise in all humane Appearance, I shall beg of you but to consider of these things over again, *viz.*

First, If you stand for the D's Interest, do you not undoubtedly so far stand for the Pope and Popish Interest, yea, Jesuites and all (the worst of Papists) and by this you will give the greatest Blow to the Church of *England*, that ever it had since it was a Church; pretend what you will for the Church of *England*, while you are for the D. you are certainly the greatest Enemies of it; if you are for a Popish Successor, or the D. as a Romanist, you are in Truth Enemies to the Church of *England* in Particular, and the Protestant Religion in General.

For can you once imagine that by bringing in a Popish Successor, you will not inevitably set up Popery? Will such a Successor, think you, have so much Love for another Religion as his own, or for those of another Profession (whom by his Perswasion he is obliged to esteem *all damned Hereticks*) as for those of his own? therefore will it not naturally follow, that he will advance the one and discountenance and depress the other? nay, do you forget, that so far as he could, he lately did the same, when he was in Power, so that the most ready way to get into Office or Preferment, was either to turn Papist, or be a Favourer of them, and then such were quickly brought in, made Governours of our Castles and Garrisons, Captains and Colonels of our Forces, yea, even Captains of our Men of War, besides hundreds of Places at Court no less than Lord High Treasurer of *England*, witness *Clifford*, and lately one of the Clerks (if not more) under the Treasurer *Danby*, must be a desperate subtle *Roman* Catholick, for it seems he could find none so fit for him; and what will the Effect of this be in a little time think you? Will not this be a great weakening to the Church of *England*, to lose so many Members as by these doings have within this ten years been seduced from her, and so many of her Members turned out and kept out of Places of Trust, Profit and Honour, whilst her Enemies are placed in them? and will not this think you, cause great Numbers to become *Roman* Catholicks, some for Favour, some for Fear, some for Offices, and others for Profit and by Perswasion, besides very many by Example, who look upon it as a great Piece of Godliness, or at least good Policy, to be of their Princes Religion? I wonder any man can be so weak as to think these Doings will make for the Intrest of the Church of *England*, surely such must strangely be infatuated; and Besides consider, for you to endeavour to make one who is a *Papist* Head of the Church of *England*, you labour thereby to make our Church a great Monster, for if our Head reckon (as he then must) us his Body, *Hereticks, rotten and damned*, where's our Body? Where will be our Church? What Agreement between the Head and Body? Will it not inevitably run into Confusion? shall we have a Father of our Church, who by his own Faith is obliged, as much as he can, to destroy her, and is bound by the Romish Principles to deal with her as a Harlot? therefore if you set up his Interest, farwell Church of *England*, farwel Protestant Religion in *England*, there's no Medium in the World, considering the Power, when in his hand, and the implacable Restlesness of the Jesuits. Therefore seriously consider of it, you see plainly that so far as you are for this Interest you are against the Church of *England*.

Is it possible you can forget Queen *Maries* dayes? the number of Martyrs that then suffered? enough to shew you the sad Effects of a *Popish* Successor's coming to the Crown; and

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will you desire to send your Selves, Wives, Children, Fathers and Mothers to the Stake to be burn'd for Hereticks? Read the Book of Martyrs, if these things so easily slip your mind: Oh! never forget her fine Wheedles to the *Suffolk* men, to assist her coming to the Crown, the fair promises she made them; not to alter the least point in their Religion, yet assoon as she thereby obtained her End, she burn'd more of them than of any County in *England* else: Remember how many she martyred in the space of four or five years; consider what havock she would have made with the Church of *England*, had she Reigned forty or fifty years: undoubtedly she would not by her good will have left one Protestant alive all over *England*: I say, consider, would you have it so again? will you endeavour to put the Protestant Religion in as great hazard of the same Persecution once more? Oh! let your Tongues rather cleave to your Mouthes, or your right hands perish: Use your utmost Endeavours to prevent it, whilst, in some measure, it is in your Power, least, in a little time the Papists with their tricks put it out of your power, and when too late, you may relent with anguish of Soul, and without Remedy.

Secondly, If you are for the Succession of the D. are you not for the *French* Interest, so consequently against the Interest of *England*, your Native Countrey?

That this is so, I beg you consider how the D. is linked with the *French* K. that cruel, blood-thirsty ------*.

How the D. hath all along espoused the *French* Interest, appears by the Letters brought to light in the Tryal of *Coleman*, (the *D*'s chief creature) there was no doubt about those Letters, no not so much as denied. I pray do but call to mind some of those Expressions in reference to the D. *viz.* page 45. *Knowing the Interest of our King, and in a more particular manner, of my more immediate Master the* DUKE, *and his most Christian Majesty to be so inseparably united, that it was impossible to divide them, without destroying them all.*

His Majesty [the French King] *was pleased to give order, to signifie to his* R. H. *my Master, that His Majesty was fully satisfied of his* R. H's. *good Intentions towards him, and that he esteemed both their Interests but as one and the same; that my Lord* Arlington *and the* Parliament *were both to be look'd upon as very unuseful to their Interests.*

Page 46. *Father* Ferrier---- *begged his* R. H. *to propose to his most Christian Majesty what he thought necessary for his own Concern, and the advantage of Religion, and his Majesty would certainly do all he could to* advance *both, or either of them.*

----- *I communicated it to his* R. H. *to which his* R. H. *commanded me to Answer, as I did on the twenty ninth of the same Month, That his* R. H. *was very sensible of his most Christian Majesties Friendship, and that he would labour to cultivate it with all the good Offices he was capable of doing for his Majesty,* [the French King] *that he was fully convinced their Interests were* BOTH ONE; *that my Lord* Arlington *and the* Parliament *were not onely* Unuseful, *but very* DANGEROUS *both to* England *and* France; *that therefore it was necessary they should do all they could to dissolve it.* page 53. *I did communicate this Design of mine to Monsieur* Ravigney, *who agreed with me, that it would be the greatest Advantage imaginable to his Master, to have the D's Power and Credit so far advanced* ---- page 54. *If we can advance the* Duke's *Interest one step forward, we shall put him out of the reach of Chance for ever.---- Then would* Catholicks *be at rest, and his* Most Christian Majesty's *Interest secured with us in* England, [mark that] *beyond all Apprehensions whatsoever; ---- Our prevailing in these things would give the greatest* BLOW *to the* Protestant Religion *here, that ever it received from its birth.*

Page 55. *If the* D. *should once get above them, (after the tricks they have play'd with him) they are not sure he will totally forget the Usage he has had at their hands. For my part* (sayes he) *I can scarce believe my self awake, or the thing real, when I think on a* Prince *in such an Age as we live in,* converted *to such a degree of* Zeal *and* Piety, *as not to regard any thing in the World, in comparison of ----- the Conversion of our poor Kingdom, which hath been a long time oppressed, and miserably harassed with* Heresie *and* Schism, *&c.*

See the whole Letter in the D's own name in page 66. and 67. it being too long here to recite; but, in short, the D. gives therein all Assurances imaginable to the *French* King's Confessor.

Above all that passage in another Letter, page 69. ought never to be forgotten, *viz.*

We have here a Mighty Work upon our hands, no less than the Conversion of three Kingdomes, and by that perhaps the utter subduing of a pestilent Heresie which hath domineered over great part of the Northern World a long time; there were never such hopes *of Success since the Death of our Queen* Mary, *as now in our dayes, when God has given us a* Prince *who is become (may I say a*

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Miracle) zealous of being the Author *and* Inſtrument *of ſo glorious a Work ---- that which we rely upon moſt, next to God Almighty's Providence and the Favour of my Maſter the Duke, is the mighty mind of his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty.---- I muſt confeſs, I think his Chriſtian Majeſtie's Temporal Intereſt is ſo much attracted to that of his* R. H. *(which can never be conſiderable but upon the Growth and Advancement of the Catholick Religion) that his Miniſters cannot give him better Advice,* &c.

I think, Gentlemen, here's enough, (and too much, God knows) to convince any wiſe man in *England* : Poſſibly we might have had enough to have filled a Volume, had not *Coleman* had time (after he was queſtioned) to burn ſo many of his Papers ; theſe Letters aforeſaid he onely left as inconſiderable, and not worth his deſtroying.

Thirdly, If you are for the D. ſo conſequently for a Popiſh Succeſſor : are you not for Arbitrary Government, and againſt all Parliaments : is it not too notoriouſly known, that the D. hates our *Parliaments* with an implacable hatred ; none ever ſet himſelf againſt our *Parliaments* more than he ; therefore, if he Succeed, adieu to all *Parliaments* : muſt you not expect to be Ruled by Force ; if you ſubmit not to that, will he not call in Force enough from *France*, with whom he hath had ſuch a ſtrict League, and who would be glad of ſuch an opportunity to Aſſiſt him ; ſo that you muſt expect nothing but a *French* Slavery at the beſt.

Beſides, it's not unknown, that the D. is a Wilful Perſon, and naturally moſt obſtinate ; if you put the Power in his hands, he will not eaſily forget what our *Parliaments* have done, but would be glad to put an End to them ; and then you muſt lye wholly at the mercy of ambitious Courtiers, and mercileſs Souldiers.

Sirs, Be not ſo weak as to let any of thoſe ſpecious Diſcourſes, ſpread abroad by the Jeſuits, under the Notion of the Church of *England*-men, (as *Coleman's* Declaration was) to advance the D's Intereſt, or a *Popiſh* Succeſſor, deceive you : be not deluded, beguiled, and lulled aſleep, but be Watchful, Sober, and Conſiderate ; look before you, and take care of your approaching Election of your *Parliament-men* ; chuſe ſuch as you have had experience of already to be Couragious and Faithful in this time of Danger to this our City, and the *Proteſtant* Religion : for if that once goes, our Liberty goes with it. Remember, *Popery* and *Slavery* are linked together : from which, Good Lord, for ever prevent and defend us.

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